



November 3, 2016  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Eyra Leeper – District 1  
Joel San Juan – District 1  
Carmelita Trujillo – District 1  
Rebecca Hernandez, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2  
Michael Matthews – District 2  
Jenifer Mendel, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – District 2  
Helen Rees – District 2  
Deanne George – District 3  
Colin MacKinnon – District 3  
Ed Weiner – District 3  
Tom Behr – District 4  
Jerry Hall – District 4  
John Sturm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 4  
Judith Yates, Member-at-Large (MH) – District 4  
Phil Deming, Chair – District 5  
Richard McGaffigan – District 5

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

K.C. Strang – District 5  
Supervisor Dave Roberts – BOS

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Alfredo Aguirre, Director, County Behavioral Health Services Division  
Traci Finch, Administrative Analyst III, County Behavioral Health Services Division

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting was called to order by Phil Deming, Chairperson, at 3:34 pm at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302/303.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Members of the BHAB introduced themselves.

- Phil Deming introduced Helen Rees, the newly-appointed BHAB member representing District 2. Helen Rees is a psychiatric nurse with Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – OCTOBER 6, 2016**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Colin MacKinnon, the BHAB approved the minutes of October 6 with the understanding that a summary of the discussion regarding the El Cajon shooting and PERT program will be included in the final version.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

William Stewart, a representative and member of Visions Clubhouse, came before the BHAB to speak about a matter impacting the mental health communities of Chula Vista, National City, South San Diego and Imperial Beach. These communities are being severely underserved by the lack of Clubhouses

staffed by Social Security advocates to assist consumers with applying for SSI and SSDI benefits. At this time, Casa De Sol is the only Clubhouse providing application assistance for the wide range of people in the region. Thus, consumers have to wait 6-8 weeks for SSI/SSDI application assistance appointments. The lack of timely service has pressured consumers to either go without help for mental health disorders or try to take shortcuts with the application process. Mr. Stewart talked about his success with receiving assistance from the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services combined with the Supportive SSDI program and how he now lives a fuller life because of this assistance. He implored the BHAB to support the Clubhouse's efforts, by way of extra funding, to secure a knowledgeable SSI/SSDI advocate to add to the region and to the community as a whole.

Alfredo Aguirre explained that the County currently has peer specialists who are trained in helping constituents initiate their applications for SSI and SSDI. The Legal Aid Society provides technical assistance and works with the peer specialists who are in the Clubhouses. The county will follow up with Greg Knoll from the Legal Aid Society Advocacy Program and look at the overall need of the Clubhouses.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENT – Preview of “Road Back” Documentary (Jennafer Moreno, Sycuan)**

Phil Deming, Chair, introduced Jennafer Moreno who came before the BHAB on behalf of Sycuan (on both the tribal and gaming side) to talk about the premier of a documentary film entitled “Road Back.” Ms. Moreno explained that although the tribe and casino do not have any actual involvement in the documentary, Sycuan supports its message of the recovery journey and believes it will resonate with the behavioral health community.

Synopsis: The “Road Back” provides a compelling look inside drug addiction through the relationship between a wealthy executive alcoholic living in sobriety and his friend, a barber hooked on heroine, as he tries to deal with relapse and challenges of staying sober. The story is told through the prism of its director, Vincent Brantley, who has a personal connection to substance abuse through his family. It's a story of love, it's a story of life and death, and it's a story of triumph. The story, with no definitive beginning or end, will expose the daily reality of the two friends who chose to walk the road of addiction together.

The film's trailer was shown to the BHAB, and an invitation was extended for county employees and the behavioral health community to attend the screening at the Live and Up Close Theater at Sycuan Casino on Tuesday, December 6, 2:00 pm. This is a free event, and complimentary refreshments will be served. After the screening, a Q & A session will be held with the producers and stars of the film. More information can be found at <http://www.Roadbackfilm.com>.

**VI. ACTION ITEM – Election of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Officers (Phil Deming)**

**Background**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Bylaws provide for establishing a Nominating Committee in September of each year. The following BHAB Members were appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee: Eyra Leeper, Colin MacKinnon and K.C. Strang.

In October, the Nominating Committee presented a recommended slate of 2017 Executive Officers (below) to stand for election today.

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|--|-------------------|
| Chairperson  | Phillip Deming    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson   | John Sturm        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson   | Rebecca Hernandez |
| Member at Large<br><i>Representing the alcohol and<br/>substance abuse community</i> | Jenifer Mendel    |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Member at Large<br><i>Representing the mental<br/>health community</i> | Judith Yates |
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**ACTION ITEM: Vote to approve the recommended slate of 2017 Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Executive Officers.**

**DISCUSSION:**

- Richard McGaffigan asked if there are term limits in order to give other BHAB members experience on the Executive Board.
  - Phil Deming explained that there is a two-year limit for a continued office, but the question remains as to how long one can serve on the Executive Board continuously if the member moves to a different office. Will have to check the Bylaws.
- Colin MacKinnon expressed that one of the problems he noted while serving on the Nominating Committee is that the committee had too few different people interested in serving as an officer. Thus, there was not a large pool to draw from.
- Phil Deming reminded all in attendance that the BHAB Executive Committee meeting is open to the public and would encourage any BHAB member seeking an office in the future to attend the Executive Committee meetings to watch the process and become comfortable with the proceedings.
  - Minutes from the Executive Committee meeting are not distributed, but they are posted on the BHAB website along with all the other BHAB meeting materials.
- Tom Behr asked for clarification on whether an officer who serves two years automatically moves up to the next level or whether there must be a vote for each office every year.
  - Phil Deming explained that there is no formal succession process in the Bylaws that would allow for an officer to automatically move in to the next higher office (for example, vice-chair to chair, etc.) The entire Executive Officer slate is open every year.

The BHAB voted to approve the recommended slate of Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Officers as proposed, with discussion as noted above.

AYES: 14   NAYS: 0   ABSTENTIONS: 0

**VII. PRESENTATION – Treatment Services and Evaluation of Access Times (Dr. Piedad Garcia and Yael Koenig)**

Yael Koenig, Deputy Director of Children, Youth and Families System of Care for Behavioral Health Services, and Dr. Piedad Garcia, Deputy Director of Adult and Older Adult Systems of Care for Behavioral Health Services, presented a PowerPoint on “Evaluating Client Access Times” and “Performance Improvement Project (PIP).” Slides and discussion covered the following areas:

- Mental Health Access Times Response Codes
- Access Times by Response Code – Youth and Adults (FY 2015-16)
- Mental Health Average Access Times
- Psychiatric Assessment Average Access Times
- Alcohol & Drug Access Times
- Mental Health Access Times: Requests for Services by Race
- Alcohol & Drug Access Times: Requests for Services by Race
- Mental Health Access Times: Requests for Services by Language
- Performance Improvement Project (PIP)
  - AOA System of Care Non-Clinical PIP Proposal: Client Engagement after Discharge from Psychiatric Hospital
    - Goal: Increase the rate of engagement with services after discharge among clients who are not currently active in the San Diego County Behavioral Health System (SDCBHS).

- Problem: Only 25% of San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH) clients who are new to the system or who have previously been in the system but have closed cases connect to services after discharge.
- Likely Cause: Clients not active in the SDCBHS system are given information about how to use “walk-in” clinics including contact information, but not given an appointment.
- Proposed Solution: Implement an intervention whereby discharged clients who are not active in the SDCBHS system are given a specific appointment to take place within three days of discharge.

Additional questions not addressed during the presentation can be sent to Traci Finch for follow up.

#### **VIII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

- Drug Medi-Cal (DMC)
  - BHS is still doing a deep dive to look at our AOD provider rate setting. Staff recently met with drug and alcohol provider representatives to help the County build a case for establishing rates. BHS is also looking at the overall cost of opting in to DMC which involves knowing the potential financial risks, etc. BHS is working closely with the HHSA Executive Office fiscal staff to help lay out the cost. The goal is to meet with the Agency Director, Nick Macchione, by early December with information on the pros and cons of opting in, a plan for how the county will pay for DMC, and the County’s argument for increasing rates. The hope is that by the first meeting in January, staff will have more information on direction the County is going. The Implementation Plan is done; now it is down to the final fiscal planning, developing a presentation, and setting the rates.
- “Stepping Up” Initiative
  - Alfredo Aguirre shared the informational item that Sheriff Bill Gore and Supervisor Greg Cox are combining on a Board Letter that will go before the Board of Supervisors on November 15. The Board Letter entails San Diego becoming part of the “Stepping Up” Initiative, a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in the jails. It is a call to action for those participating counties to work with their leadership groups to commit to developing collaborative action plans and working with national partners to increase the success of individuals, while at the same time protecting public safety and reducing costs to taxpayers.
  - The Board Letter will adopt a resolution to proclaim San Diego County’s commitment to “Stepping Up” and join the National Association of Counties (NACo) to be part of this initiative. Participation in the initiative would build on San Diego County’s national leadership in behavioral health and criminal justice, and expand opportunities to collaborate with national partners. The docket date for the Board Letter should be sometime next week, and BHS will forward a copy to the BHAB once that is done. BHS is already working closely with our public safety partners and the courts in addressing the gaps in our system. BHAB members conveyed their support for the Board Letter and were encouraged to attend the November 15 Board of Supervisors meeting where it will be presented.
- All Provider Luncheon
  - Scheduled for December 12, 11:30 am-1:00 pm at Anchors Catering. A Save the Date with information and registration details will go out to the BHAB next week.
- Regional *Live Well* Leadership Efforts
  - At the BHAB Fall Retreat, many members expressed an interest in becoming more engaged in initiatives or issues in the community that aren’t necessarily all about behavioral health. One recommendation was to encourage the BHAB to get involved in our *Live Well* communities and our *Live Well* leadership regional forums. Every region has a *Live Well* leadership group near them with the goal of health improvement. An overview of the regional *Live Well* leadership efforts will be presented at the January BHAB meeting.

- Community Engagement Forum Focus Groups
  - Dr. Danyte Mockus-Valenzuela gave an update. The Community Engagement Forums began in late August and concluded in October. There were 553 individuals who attended the forums, including clients, providers, family members, community members, law enforcement, community organizations and BHAB members. Based on satisfaction surveys collected at the end of each Community Engagement Forum, participants were somewhat to very satisfied with the convenience, usefulness and overall impression of the forums.

In addition, six focus groups were held (with approximately 100 individuals in total) to ensure outreach and input from the following communities:

- Criminal justice partners
- Justice population – George Bailey and Las Colinas (final focus group to be conducted in November)
- Peer liaisons
- Community partners in Southeast San Diego
- Native American partners in North County but open to all reservations across the county

BHS engaged a consultant this year to help with the evaluation of the feedback gathered at the forums, identifying the overriding themes, looking at regional variations and creating regional reports to look at needs across the regions. Data gathered will be used to ensure County budget and operational planning, the BHS 10-Year Roadmap and Mental Health Services Act planning are in alignment with community needs.

**IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Phil Deming, Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board Chair**

- BHAB Fall Retreat Debrief
  - The BHAB Fall Retreat held October 8 went very well with a good turnout. The BHAB had a chance to hear HHSA and BHS goals and align BHAB goals for 2017 accordingly.
- Establishing Priorities Process
  - Phil Deming called attention to the handout in the packet entitled “Draft Priorities of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board for the 2017 Calendar Year.” The list represents the collective priorities of those in attendance plus those of the members elected at that point but not able to attend the Fall Retreat. A copy of the list was distributed to all BHAB members in attendance at today’s meeting, and they were asked to review the list and circle their top three priorities along with two alternates. Members not in attendance will also be given a chance to select their top priorities, with final results emailed to the group in mid-November.
- California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) Update
  - Phil Deming recently participated in a telephone meeting. The CALBHB/C is undergoing some significant challenges and changes as far as changing funding and funding sources. They are in the process of trying to do an 18 month fiscal plan. The next meeting will be held in San Diego in January.

**X. ADVOCATE REPORTING**

- Rebecca Hernandez attended a press conference on October 17 by Sheriff Gore and some of the Board of Supervisors on Prop 64, which proposes legalization of marijuana. Those present publicly demonstrated their opposition and gave sound reasons and data against Prop 64. San Diego is one of the few counties in the state to take that position.

**XI. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of Judith Yates, seconded by Jenifer Mendel, the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

AYES: All

**Brown Act Procedure:** *As required by California Government Code 54950 et seq. (Ralph M. Brown Act), a copy of the packet of information that was mailed to Behavioral Health Advisory Board members at the point of posting of this agenda has been placed at the reception desk at 3255 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108, for public inspection, and is available at the site of the meeting for public inspection. Members of the public wanting their own copy of the advance materials may request them under Government Code 6250 et seq. (Public Records Act) and receive them on payment of copying charges of \$0.20/page, and actual mailing charges, if mailing of the material is requested. If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations, you must call Jackson Alexander at (858) 505-6521, at least three days in advance of the meeting.*

[Signatures to be inserted here]